

Mayor and City Council Agenda Item Request

Meeting Date: 4/2/2013

Type: Presentation

Call to Podium:

Melissa Porter, Local Autism Speaks Ambassador

Agenda Item Title:

Proclamation of the Mayor and City Council Designating April 2013 as 'National Autism Awareness Month'

Responsible Staff and Department:

Britta Monaco, Director, Department of Community & Public Relations

Desired Outcome from Council:

Issue Proclamation

Public Hearing History	
Introduction Date:	
Advertisement Date :	
Public Hearing Date:	
Record Held Open Date:	
Policy Discussion Date:	
Anticipated Adoption Date:	

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND ON NEXT PAGE

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Supporting Background Information:

At no point in recent history has the need for autism awareness been more important. A new government survey reports that 1 in 50 school-age children may have Autism Spectrum Disorder, and about 40% children with Autism do not speak.

In December, 2007, the United Nations declared April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day. In the United States, the month of April is dedicated to spreading awareness, recognizing that early diagnosis is key to providing the necessary resources and supports to children and families.

To promote awareness, Autism Speaks launched the “Light It Up Blue” campaign, a global initiative to shine a bright light on autism as a growing public health crisis. Iconic landmarks including the Empire State Building in New York City and the CN Tower in Toronto, as well as airports, bridges, museums, concert halls, restaurants, and retail stores around the world have participated by lighting up bright blue.

In recognition of National Autism Awareness month, the City of Gaithersburg will be proclaiming April as National Autism Awareness Month in Gaithersburg, and will shine blue floodlights on City Hall in celebration.

We ask Melissa Porter to come forward and accept this year’s proclamation.